



Laboratory Animal Resources Center
Standard Operating Procedure
October 2011

Safety with Sharps

Work in animal facilities commonly involves use of sharp instruments. All sharp items, e.g., needles, scalpels, razor blades, capillary tubes must be handled safely, and placed in designated sharps containers for disposal. In the state of Oregon syringes are also considered sharps and, therefore, must also be disposed of in a designated sharps container. Exposed sharps should never be left on the counter or in a drawer.

Needles should not be recapped* or re-used.

Used needles should be placed directly, uncapped, into a designated sharps container (or placed there as soon as possible after use). Attempts to recap used needles may result in injury. Discarding uncapped needles in other than a designated sharps container may result in custodial, research and care staff injuries.

Sharps containers in the animal facilities are closed, sealed and appropriately disposed of when they are about 2/3rds full. If your animal use area needs a sharps container contact the LARC at 7-2263.

*In the rare case that recapping needles is necessary and/or approved by the IACUC as part of an ACUP a technique similar to the following is advised, <http://www.safetyvet.com/osha/onehanded.htm>.